Son asks probe of Wallace shooting

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – The son of former Gov. George C. Wallace, citing new claims that his father's 1972 assassination attempt was discussed in the Nixon White House, wants the FBI to reinvestigate the shooting.

George Wallace Jr. said Saturday he asked President-elect Clinton to reopen the investigation. He also wants a congressional inquiry.

Jeff Eller, a Clinton spokesman in Little Rock, Ark., said there would be no comment on the request until it was received.

Mr. Wallace and his father sent letters to Alabama's congressional delegation and the FBI requesting a copy of the report on the assassination attempt.

The elder Wallace, who was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, was shot May 15, 1972, during a campaign stop in Laurel, Md., leaving his legs paralyzed.

The call for a renewed investigation was prompted by an article in The New Yorker magazine that reported former President Nixon and aide Charles Colson discussed planting George McGovern campaign literature in the apartment of Mr. Wallace's attacker.

The proposal had to be dropped because the FBI was quick to seal the apartment, according to the article by Seymour M. Hersh.

Mr. Nixon complained on a still-undisclosed audio tape "about the missed opportunity," to make it appear gunman Arthur Bremer was a McGovern supporter, the article said.

"We seek the release of any additional tapes which could possibly shed any light on the actions of Arthur Bremer in relation to his assassination attempt on my father," the younger Wallace said in a statement.

"Since 1972, we have heard on different occasions that Bremer was seen on a ferry in the state of Michigan – where he did stalk my father at one time – with someone who worked directly for President Nixon," Mr. Wallace said.

He said the family had dismissed that report as an unsubstantiated rumor until now.

"I do know that Bremer stalked my father for several weeks, staying in some of the finest hotels in the country," he said. "I have always wondered how a 21-year-old man with no visible means of support could enjoy such a comfortable lifestyle."

Bremer was convicted in the shooting and is serving a 53-year sentence at a state prison in Hagerstown.

The younger Wallace said he does not believe Mr. Nixon had any knowledge of Bremer's intentions prior to the assassination attempt.

"My question is, did anyone else involved in Nixon's campaign have prior knowledge?" he said.

The former governor has made no public comment on the magazine article, but his former chief aide, Elvin Stanton, said last week that Mr. Wallace, 73, believes top government officials were involved in a conspiracy to eliminate him from the 1972 presidential race.